



Connecticut Chapter
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
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Written Testimony submitted by

John Rumberger, Vice President of Housing and Legislation

On behalf of the membership of Conn-NAHRO

Conn-NAHRO is the Connecticut chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; its membership is comprised of Public Housing Authorities and other individuals and organizations involved in affordable housing.

Co-Chairmen Senator Cassano and Representative Jutila and members of the Government Administration and Election Committee.

My name is John Rumberger; I am the Vice President of Housing and Legislation for Conn-NAHRO and also the Facilities Manager of the Middletown Housing Authority. We at CONN-NAHRO are writing in regards to H.B. No. 6694 **AN ACT CONCERNING FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION IN PUBLIC HOUSING**

We understand the motivation to allow the use of our facilities to provide a forum for our residents to be an informed body of voters. In fact, Housing Authorities already support the use of our facilities by our residents for a multitude of activities in a manner consistent with our Facilities Use policies. However, our concern is over the potential misuse of any one of our locations and insurance liabilities that could arise due to an influx of non-residents attending events on Housing Authority property. As you are aware, the Hatch Act prohibits the Housing Authority in engaging, organizing or promoting any political activities. This puts us in a difficult position to effectively administer and schedule space for what is designed for the use and enhancement of our tenants.

We ask that the committee consider that residents are already allowed to use common area space in line with our policies and ask that Housing Authorities continue to be allowed to administer common area usage without further legislation.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

John Rumberger